



## THE COMPREHENSIVE IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUG COVERAGE FOR KIDNEY TRANSPLANT PATIENTS ACT (S. 3353/H.R. 5534)

Currently, Medicare Part B coverage of immunosuppressive drugs ends 36 months post-transplant for non-aged, non-disabled kidney transplant recipients. Many patients lack affordable coverage when their Medicare ends and are forced to ration or forgo their medications altogether. Some kidney patients do not even try to get a transplant due to fear they will have difficulty maintaining access to the necessary immunosuppressive drugs. If a transplant patient loses access to immunosuppressive drugs, their body will reject their transplanted kidney and they will be forced to return to dialysis.

Thankfully, Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Dick Durbin (D-IL), and Representatives Ron Kind (D-WI) and Michael Burgess (R-TX) introduced S. 3353/H.R. 5534, Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act.

This non-controversial, bipartisan legislation would save lives and reduce Medicare spending by ensuring transplant patients have access to life-saving immunosuppressive medications. The bill is narrowly tailored, and only applies if the transplant recipient lacks private or other public coverage for these drugs. Recently, CBO issued a preliminary report indicating that the bill would save an estimated \$70 million over ten years.

For questions on NKF legislative priorities, please email Lauren Drew at [lauren.drew@kidney.org](mailto:lauren.drew@kidney.org)



### TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS

take immunosuppressive drugs for the life of their kidney transplant

### MEDICARE PAYS FOR

immunosuppressive drugs for only 36 months post-transplant.

### COVERAGE STOPS

until the beneficiary is Medicare-aged or Medicare-disabled.



### (ESRD) PROGRAM PAYS

for dialysis or transplantation for most of the nearly 750,000 kidney disease patients

### IF KIDNEY IS LOST

recipient has to go back on dialysis and the wait list for a new kidney.

### NEARLY 100,000

are on the kidney wait list and nearly 3,400 people died in 2019 waiting.